



## **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

Region 2 Headquarters  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804  
Phone 406-542-5500

January 8, 2015

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to acquire a public hunting access-right component of a conservation easement (CE) to be held by the Bitter Root Land Trust (BRLT) on the Lazy J Cross Ranch (Ranch), east of Sula in Ravalli County. The purpose of the proposed project is to protect in perpetuity public hunting access on the Ranch and through the Ranch property to adjacent Forest Service and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation School Trust public lands, which encompass over 40,000 acres.

These EA documents may be viewed on FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Submit Public Comments," beginning January 8). The EA also may be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; or by emailing [shrose@mt.gov](mailto:shrose@mt.gov). Comments may be made online (submit public comments, above) or directed to Sharon Rose by mail or email at the contacts above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 6, 2015.

FWP will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposal, answer questions and take public comment. The hearing will be held in Sula on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sula Club House (on US Highway 93 at Sula, turn north onto the East Fork Road and drive about 1.4 miles to the building, right-hand side of road).

As part of the decision making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP acquisition of interests in land, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners (at their March meeting).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Arnold", is written over a horizontal line.

Randy Arnold  
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr